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STATE LEGISLATURE, MADRAS

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 16th March 1955.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, at half-past eight of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Irregularities in the Nellikuppam Panchayat Board.

*1494 *Q.*—SRI K. T. SREEDARAN (on behalf of Sri K. R. Nallasivam): Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any representations from the members of Nellikuppam Panchayat Board about the irregularities in the Panchayat Board;

(*b*) whether any charges were framed against the President or the Executive Officer; and

(*c*) whether misappropriation of funds and mishandling of contracts are items of charges against the President?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) No, Sir.

" (*c*) The exact nature of the charges will be known only after the report called for from the Inspector is received."

MR. SPEAKER :—" We shall take up the Finance Minister's questions afterwards as he is not yet present in the House."

Use of Government tractors and caterpillars during the Congress Session at Avadi.

*1371 *Q.*—SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state whether any Government tractors and caterpillars were sent to Avadi for levelling the grounds where the session of the Indian National Congress was held recently?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Yes, Sir."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" May I know from the Hon. the Minister whether the caterpillars and tractors are given on hire for any other purpose than agriculture? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Yes, Sir. They are also given for other purposes and hire charges are levied."

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SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" May I know what were the hire charges levied in this case?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The hire charges levied in this case were the same as are levied in the case of ryots who take them for agricultural purposes. I do not have with me the figures relating to the total bill."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Have the Government at any time given the tractors and caterpillars for other purposes than agriculture before the Avadi session of the Congress?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Yes. Sir."

Missing of pumpsets and agricultural implements from Saidapet.

* 1373 Q.—SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether any pumpsets and agricultural implements of the Government stores at Saidapet were found missing; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in the matter.

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) Only one body block of Wisconsin engine (oil engine) was found missing out of the articles kept in the room beside the office of the District Agricultural Officer, Guindy.

" (b) A report to the Police has been sent for investigation; and further enquiries are being held by the Director of Agriculture."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" What will be the cost of the articles reported to be missing?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The missing thing is an old used engine. I do not have with me the present book value of that engine."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" In the Audit Reports, there is always a remark that the Government are not having proper machinery or taking proper steps to check stocks. May I know whether the Government take steps to check the stocks periodically?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Yes, Sir. The Government do take into account the remarks of the auditors and take necessary action thereon."

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY :—" May I know whether the staff in that office was found guilty of having removed this oil engine or whether it was a case of suspicion that the staff must have stolen the engine?"